

REMARKS

The above Amendments and these Remarks are submitted under 35 U.S.C. § 132 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 in response to the Office Action mailed September 27, 2005.

Summary of the Examiner's Action and Applicants' Response

The Examiner stated that Claims 8 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, 5, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Marth, et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,704,592. Claims 6-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious based on Marth, et al. in view of Lindqvist (U.S. Patent No 6,075,430).

In this amendment, Applicants have amended Claims 7, 11, and 12. Claim 12 has been amended merely to correct a typographical error. Claims 1 and 8 have been cancelled. After entry of this Amendment, Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9, 11, and 12 will be pending.

Response to the Rejection of Claims 1-3, 5, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

The Examiner stated that Marth, et al. discloses an inductor having a magnetic core whose central elongated portion 1 has an approximately rectangular cross-sectional shape, a winding 4 wound around the central portion 1 of the core, and two end portions 2 for surface mounting to another structure, wherein the outer surfaces of winding 4 are co-planar with the planar surfaces of the end portions 2. The Examiner further stated that Marth, et al. discloses a mounting frame 8 for securing wire ends 6 and for enabling core 1 and windings 4 to be surface mounted on a PCB. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants have cancelled Claim 1. Regarding Claim 2, Applicants respectfully submit that the mounting frame as taught in Marth, et al. does not enable the inductor as taught in Marth, et al. to be surface mounted in such a way that coplanar surfaces of the core end portions and winding are enabled to be in contact with the PCB to which the inductor is surface mounted, as claimed in Claim 2. Although Marth, et al. discloses a U-shaped portion 8 to tie the ends of the windings, as indicated by the Examiner, Applicants respectfully submit that this U-shaped portion 8 is also disclosed in Marth, et al. as the structure that connects the inductor to an adjacent PCB, e.g., with plug pins suitable for insertion into pre-drilled circuit boards. (See FIGs. 1 and 2, and Col. 3, lines 33 to 51). Applicants respectfully submit therefore that, since element 8 forms the bottom of the inductor as shown in Marth, et al. FIGs. 1 and 2 and as described in its specification, the planar

surfaces of the core 2 and windings 4 are spaced from the PCB by the element 8 and therefore can not themselves be surface mounted to the PCB. That is, it is only the bottom surface of element 8 in Marth, et al. that is fastened to a PCB during surface mounting. Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that Marth, et al. does not teach a mounting frame to enable the direct surface mounting of the planar surfaces of the core ends and winding, as claimed in Claim 2, as amended.

Claims 3 and 5 depend from Claim 2 and thus are respectfully submitted as not being anticipated by Marth, et al. for the same reasons as given above for Claim 2, as amended.

Applicants have amended Claim 11 to make clearer that the mounting of the core in the mounting frame enables the winding and core surface to be surface mounted. In contrast, it is only the bottom surface of element 8 in Marth, et al. that is fastened to a PCB during surface mounting, as described above. Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that Claim 11 is not anticipated by Marth, et al.

Response to the Rejection of Claims 6 and 7 under § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claims 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious based on Marth, et al. in view of Lindqvist. The Examiner stated that Marth, et al. discloses the claimed inductive element except for a second magnetic core with the same structure of the first core. The Examiner stated that Lindqvist discloses a multiple magnetic core device wherein two elongated portions of the cores are placed in parallel so the ends of each core against each other. The Examiner concluded that, at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to add an additional core as taught by Lindqvist to Marth, et al. to provide variation of the embodiment of the devices. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants respectfully submit that Marth, et al. does not teach or suggest the inductive element of Claim 2, as amended, for the same reasons as given above. Claim 6 depends from Claim 2 and thus Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 6 is not obvious based on Marth, et al. for the same reasons as given above for Claim 2, as amended. Applicants respectfully submit that, although Lindqvist does teach a two core structure; it also does not teach or suggest a mounting frame, as claimed in Claim 2, as amended. Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that Claim 6 is non-obvious based on Marth, et al. in view of Lindqvist.

The Examiner stated that Claims 8 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have amended Claim 7 to include the mounting frame, as claimed in Claim 8.

Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that Claim 7 has been placed into allowable form. Claim 8 has been cancelled.

Conclusion

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims, Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9, 11, and 12, in the present application are in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully solicited.

If a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (415) 984-8200.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald L. Bartels", is written over a horizontal line.

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